

Issue NE-CW2004, released May 17, 2004, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541 or e-mail at nass-ne@nass.usda.gov. Homepage - <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

Agricultural Summary: For the week ending May 16, 2004, corn and soybean planting again made excellent progress with both continuing well ahead of last year and average, according to USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Freezing temperatures Friday morning in several areas caused producers concern. Damage has yet to be determined for emerged corn and growing wheat. Other producer activities included livestock care and other fieldwork activities.

Weather Summary: Temperatures averaged from normal to 6 degrees below normals for the week. Precipitation was statewide and ranged to three inches in the southeast.

Soil Moisture and Days Suitable: Nebraska, Week Ending May 16, 2004				
	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Topsoil				
Very Short	15	17	1	9
Short	36	41	5	15
Adequate	47	41	82	69
Surplus	2	1	12	7
Subsoil				
Very Short	34	39	12	15
Short	39	40	33	25
Adequate	27	21	52	56
Surplus	0	0	2	4
Days Suitable	4.5	6.5	3.6	4.9

Field Crops Report: Corn planting continued at a rapid pace with 95 percent complete, about 2 weeks ahead of last year at 68 and a week and a half ahead of average at 81. Sixty-five percent of the crop was emerged, well ahead of last year at 26 and average at 39.

Soybean planting jumped to 51 percent complete, about 10 days ahead of last year at 17 and a week ahead of average at 32. Fourteen percent had emerged, ahead of last year at 2 and average at 9.

Sorghum planting advanced to 17 percent complete, ahead of last year at 6 and average at 15.

Wheat condition declined and rated 13 percent very poor, 21 poor, 35 fair, 28 good, and 3 excellent, below last year and average. Fields were 93 percent jointed, ahead of last

year at 85 and average at 79. Wheat was 38 percent headed, well ahead of last year at 7 and average at 13.

Oat condition rated 5 percent very poor, 9 poor, 49 fair, 31 good, and 6 excellent. Dry bean planting was underway with 7 percent seeded to date.

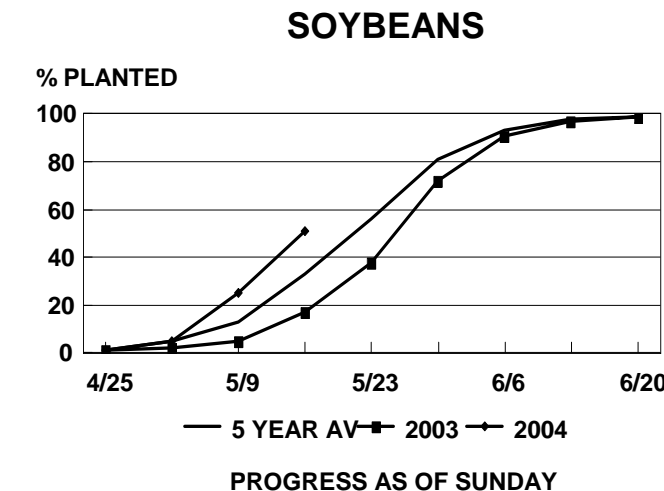
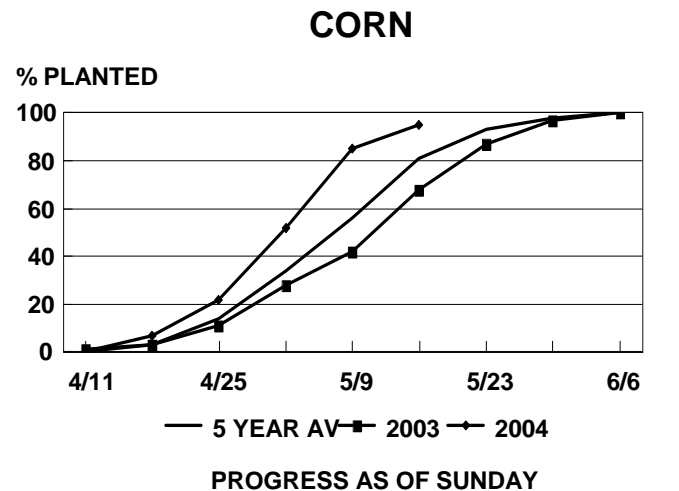
Alfalfa conditions declined and rated 5 percent very poor, 14 poor, 34 fair, 40 good, and 7 excellent. First cutting activities were underway with 4 percent harvested to date, ahead of last year at 2 and average at 3.

Crop Progress : Nebraska, Week Ending May 16, 2004				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	Average
Percent				
Alfalfa 1 st Cutting	4	2	2	3
Corn Planted	95	85	68	81
Corn Emerged	65	29	26	39
Soybeans Planted	51	25	17	32
Soybeans Emerged	14	0	2	9
Sorghum Planted	17	7	6	15
Wheat Jointed	93	82	85	79
Wheat Headed	38	3	7	13

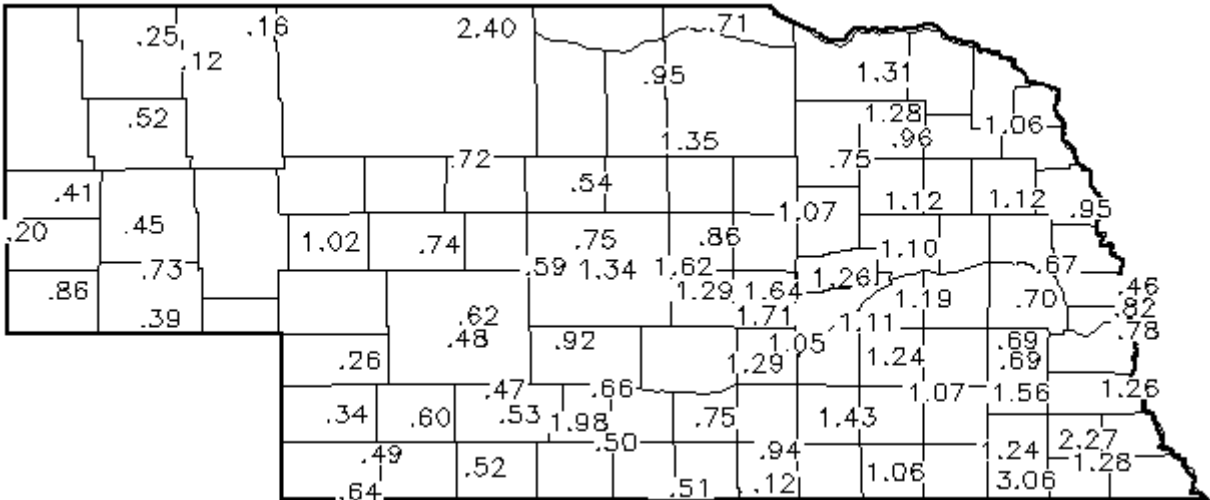
Crop Condition: Nebraska, Week Ending May 16, 2004					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Percent					
Alfalfa	5	14	34	40	7
Oats	5	9	49	31	6
Wheat	13	21	35	28	3

Livestock, Pasture and Range Report: Pasture and range condition declined and rated 16 percent very poor, 26 poor, 31 fair, 25 good and 2 excellent, below a year ago and average. Some producers are still waiting for additional grass growth before returning cattle to pastures.

This release is based on data from FSA county directors, county extension educators, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center. County comments and reports can be found at: http://www.nass.usda.gov/ne/cropwthr/cmts_cur.htm



Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending May 16, 2004



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - May 16, 2004

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.46	1.05	1.02	1.21	1.04	.48	.81	1.68
Total since April 1	2.00	2.55	3.90	3.17	2.72	2.67	3.21	3.57
Normal since April 1	3.30	3.76	4.45	4.25	4.77	3.56	4.02	4.83
Total as % of normal	60%	68%	87%	75%	57%	75%	80%	73%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Sunday, May 16, 2004

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Average	Departure
		High	Low		
NW	Alliance	82	28	50	-5
	Scottsbluff	83	30	53	-2
	Sidney	88	28	51	-5
NC	Ainsworth	87	27	53	-5
	Arthur	85	27	52	-5
	O'Neill	81	27	55	-4
NE	Concord	79	30	54	-6
	Elgin	79	30	55	-5
	West Point	80	33	56	-5
C	Grand Island	80	32	58	-3
	Lexington	86	31	58	-2
	Ord	81	29	57	-4
EC	Lincoln	82	36	59	-3
	Central City	78	33	58	-3
	Mead	82	32	59	-4
SW	Champion	89	27	57	-1
	North Platte	88	26	58	0
	Curtis	86	27	59	0
SC	Arapahoe	90	28	54	-4
	Minden	83	34	57	-3
	Red Cloud	81	32	58	-3
SE	Beatrice	79	37	59	-4
	Clay Center	78	32	57	-4
	Nemaha	82	39	60	-3

Source: High Plains Climate Center.